

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected.
Claims 3 and 4 are objected to. Claims 1 and 2 are cancelled.

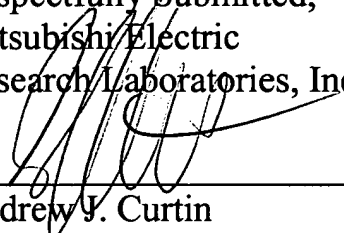
Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sasada, et al. (U.S. Patent 5,867,592).

Allowable claims 3 and 4 are amended herein to be in independent form, and to include the limitations of claims 1 and 2. Claims 1 and 2 are cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 50-0749 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully Submitted,
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